## AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER 159<sup>th</sup> issue, August 2, 2010 Obama's climate change guy Todd Stern has just

vacation: more like a critical lobbying opportunity By Janet Redmann U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern traveled with Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Arturo

Valenzuela to Chile, Peru, and Ecuador last week, to discuss climate

change with his government counterparts and civil society. Deepen-

ing bilateral and multilateral cooperation to increase economic

growth, cutting greenhouse gasses, and helping climate-vulnerable

But the political objective of the trip was to push the Copenhagen

populations were on the official program.

at the end of 2010.

wrapped up a tour of Latin America. It wasn't

Environment

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- Accord a controversial agreement the United States introduced to UN climate talks in 2009 and that several Latin American countries blocked — in advance of the climate summit in Mexico

Stern's South American tour — only three weeks before the next UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiating session in Bonn — shows the increasingly important role of Latin American nations in reaching a climate deal. His itinerary offered a window into how the United States is using the climate debate as part of a larger agenda to secure political influence, trade, and access to resources in the hemisphere.

**An Emerging Latin America** Wealthy countries ("Annex 1" in UNFCCC-speak) have long been at the center of the climate

change negotiations. Together, these countries secure their power by probing at the fault lines that already exist between developing countries — often pitting the most impoverished nations against economically emerging ones. And Annex 1 countries repeatedly pass the buck to developping countries for the failure of negotiations, often blaming China, the Philippines, or any other country that refuses to go along with provisions that will fundamentally undermine developing countries' economic and ecological interests.

adopting a comprehensive decision.

global civil society.

stop climate chaos. Small island states and African nations hold moral authority, because climate change will be most devastating to their peoples. Latin America, meanwhile, has never been at the center of the climate debate — until now. This year, global climate negotiations will be held in Cancun, Mexico. The Mexican government is under intense pressure to avoid a repeat of the fiasco in Copenhagen. At that time, the Danish hosts floundered in procedural upheaval, left delegates shivering outside the convention hall while demonstrations erupted inside, and ultimately couldn't corral the assembled countries into

global climate deal don't look promising. Christina Figueres, the 15-year veteran of the Costa Rican negotiating team tapped as the new secretary of the UNFCCC, will be responsible for ensuring that negotiations don't run aground. Brazil, largest of the nine countries that make up the Amazon Basin, has positioned itself as a leader on REDD in the Americas. With millions of hectares of land and potentially trillions of dollars at stake — not to mention the rights of indigenous peoples and state sovereignty — Brazil is a key player.

The Mexican government is determined to make substantial progress on at least two key elements: climate finance and the use of carbon markets to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). At the same time, it's implicitly cautioning that prospects for a

Argentina only has natural gas reserves for the next seven years Argentina' natural gas reserves dropped to half their 2000 level when they totaled 378.862 million cubic meters, which means at the current consumption rate in seven and a half years the country will ran out of the vital fuel, according to a report released this week in Buenos Aires.

Read more at http://www.ips-dc.org/articles/latin america climate change swing states

By Alexandre Aguiar

gas from Bolivia and liquid natural gas, LNG from other sources, as well as significantly limiting the supply of fuel to feed the manufacturing sector and generate power. Argentina suffered its first major energy crisis in 2004 when it was forced to resume Bolivian natural gas purchases and ration supply to Chile, in spite of existing international contracts, besides cutting the supply of power to the manufacturing sector and the auto industry. Read more at http://en.mercopress.com/2010/07/21/argentine-only-has-natural-gas-reserves-for-the-next-seven-years

He added that Bolivia has also proposed Mercosur junior members to identify projects that could transform local commodities into higher added value products taking advantage of Bolivian reliable, clean and cheap energy. Vincenti mentioned specifically thermo-electric generation plants and the possibility of building a deep-water port in Uruguay under 'free zone' regime so that Bo-

week by the worst snowstorm in 30 year. The snow accumulation reached 5 feet in Balmaceda and the Army was called to rescue people trapped by the snow. In Uruguay, there were widespread reports of sleet and even snow Curico, Chile. mixed with rain in towns in the Southern and Eastern part of the

Under Creative Common License. Photo attributed to <ali>cdiv<a href="mailto:scientaing-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-base-size-no-b country, even in the capital Montevideo. At leas two deaths have been blamed in Uruguay on the low temperatures. Hospitals were packed with patients with respiratory illness. In Paraguay, at least nine people died due to the cold weather in only 3 days. Cattle were very af-

support it, but that they like it", Chancellor Ricardo Patiño pointed out in relation to the Yasuní-ITT initiative, through which the Ecuadorian Government intends to avoid the extraction of 850 million barrels of crude oil from the Amazon basin. In exchange, Correa is requesting an international compensation of 3.500 million dollars, equivalent to 50% of oil cost to be extracted, but whose production would represent an emission of 410 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, main gas responsible for global warming.

The visit by Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment from the Congo came about after President Jagdeo issued an invitation to President Joseph Kabila while they were in Norway. According to Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud who met with Djombo yesterday morning, the President has always made it clear that Guyana has been looking at climate change responses in the context of model building as well as application. Persaud noted that pertinent areas of the

Read more at www.encuentrocientificointernacional.org, http://www.worldscientists.org/ **REO Hub and ESTH Outreach** 

the region as well as students pursuing

Bolivia has emerged, along with Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, as a bastion for climate justice. Enraged by the exclusive process that led to the Copenhagen Accord, Bolivia called a summit

versible way" to increase high-cost fuel imports with a negative impact on the country's finances. The release of the report coincides with the considerable reductions and blackouts imposed on the manufacturing sector by the Kirchner couple administration to ensure the home demand

Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay consider building 2.000 kilometres gas pipeline Natural gas-rich Bolivia has invited Paraguay and Uruguay to confirm sufficient demand to justify the building of a commercially viable 2.000 kilometres pipeline linking with Asunción and Montevideo. Bolivian Hydrocarbons minister Luis Fernando Vincenti has been holding talks with representa-

tives from both countries not only for the sale of natural gas but also to become partners in setting up a chain of service stations to provide gas for vehicles. Vincenti recently said that discussions were advancing for the initial daily sale of 300.000 cubic metres of natural gas to Uruguay,

At the end of the month a Bolivian technical delegation will be visiting Asunción to keep advancing on these projects. The agenda also includes a presidential summit of Urupabol (Uruguay/ Paraguay/Bolivia) country members next September in support of the project

with 30 million cubic meters per day and Argentina with seven million cubic meters.

Read more at http://en.mercopress.com/2010/07/22/bolivia-paraguay-and-uruguay-consider-building-2.000-kilometres-

A brutal and historical cold snap has so far caused 80 deaths in South America, according to international news agencies. Temperatures have been much below normal for over a week in vast areas of the continent. In Chile, the Aysen region was affected early last

But the two senior Mercosur members are the only clients for Bolivian gas.

fected and one thousand animals died of hypothermia. In Bolivia, dozes of people died in consequence of the very low temperatures. In some areas of the nation the cold period was described as the worst in 15 years. It even snowed in the Chaco of Bolivia, one of warmest areas of South America, where the local population never saw snow before. Classes were suspended in Bolivia for

"We want to preserve the Yasuní National Park, where ITT oil fields are located. There we have the largest confirmed oil reserves that Ecuador has", Correa stated to Valenzuela and the Special Envoy for Climate Change, Todd Stern, during their visit to Quito.

programmes look at the balance being struck between resource utilization, conservation and sustainable management. The Government's interactions with people who are dependent on forest resources are also points of focus as well. The Congo also has to face these challenges as well, they have a much bigger forested area however, but the premise remains the same. Persaud noted that the Government of Guyana is ready and willing to share what they have learnt with

mitment to stimulating low carbon economies. The four day conference averaged more than 200 participants each day. Ago 9-14, 2010 REO Indran Amirthanayagam will participate in the UNEP Inception Workshop ASGM Regional Project, La Paz, Bolivia, and will carry out

his orientation visit to this country.

http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=amendments) June 26, 2009 – Passed House. Bill now goes to Senate vote.

The information contained herein was gathered from news sources from across the region, and the views expressed below do not necessarily reflect those of the Regional Environmental HUB Office or of our constituent posts.

Developing countries in the G77+China (a negotiating block that represents more than 130 nations) have been flexing their collective muscle in climate negotiations of late, especially around the right to develop. China and India, both major emitters of greenhouse gases, are considered influential players because any plan to reduce emissions without their participation would not

of its own, inviting all governments and civil society to a World Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba this April. One outcome of the global gathering was a Peoples Agreement that Bolivia officially submitted to the UNFCCC on behalf of

struck by severe freezing winter temperatures. This has set alarms ringing in Argentina's manufacturing sector because contrary to official announcements the situation, year after year, seems to worsen.

"The level of reserves experienced an inter-annual drop of 4.9% in 2009 and is insufficient for a country like Argentina which bases its consumption in this kind of fuel, natural gas", said the Energy Insti-

tute General Mosconi. The report adds that at the present rate of demand increase for gas and power, Argentina is incapable of ensuring self sufficiency which means "it needs in a growing and irre-

livia's natural gas could be shipped overseas. Bolivia has the largest natural gas reserves in South America behind Venezuela and supplies Brazil

three days to prevent more cold related deaths (El Nacional newspaper from Bolivia.) Southern Brazil was also very affected by the cold air eruption from the Southern Pole. Last week the temperature dropped to -7,8C in the city of Urupema, Santa Catarina. In Rio Grande do Sul, in the hills of the state, temperature felt to -4,9C in the city of Cambara. In the state of Paraná, the

low was -6C. Only the nights were freezing, but the afternoons were very cold. In some days, temperature failed to reach 5C in many towns, the first time in a decade. Flurries observed in towns of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná and sleet was also reported in Western Santa Ca-

On July 14th, in the afternoon hours, temperatures in the hills of Rio Grande do Sul state in Southern Brazil were lower than in Marambio, the main polar base of Argentina in Antarctica. In Central Brazil, in the tropics, the long streak of cold days was considered extremely rare. It was so cold that thousand of animals died in this region of Brazil known for its cattle, just South of the Amazon

"We assume the hardest part. Financially, it is more convenient for us to extract the oil" but "international accountability is a must, specially by more developed countries, which are the ones who pollute the most" he added.

Meanwhile, Stern said in a conference that Washington is interested in the environmental plan. "I

The official noted, however, that his country has to "analyze " this proposal in order to decide if

the Congo. Persaud points out that the two countries share similar outlooks on forest in the mitigation of climate change and recognition of the need for compensation for these forests. Guyana's model he notes has garnered a large amount of recognition internationally, especially from large donors such as Norway and Britain, and he is pleased that the Congo shares this outlook. Another area

that will come up for discussion is that of value added in the timber sector. Minister Djombo, he

Minister Djombo for whom this is the first visit to Guyana noted that this country has one of the lowest deforestation rates of all the rainforest countries of the world. He said that the global debate on climate change is playing an important role in shaping the practices employed in the management of forests and the links between the two countries will help in the sharing experiences and supporting common positions during climate change negotiations. The goal, he said, is to get to a position that will see the role of forest being well recognized and as a consequence resources

notes, has expressed interest in the use of timber in the construction of housing.

will be put in place to support countries who are sustainably managing their forests.

deserve any resources."

study-guyana%E2%80%99s-lcds/

Peru: 2010 International Scientists' Meeting

Ago 17-18, 2010 Low Carbon Sustainable Economies Workshop: South American Perspectives, organized by REO, USAID, and US Southcom. Lima, Peru. Sept 13-24, 2010 REO Adriana Quevedo will undertake the ESTH Tradecraft Training Programme. Oct 6-7, 2010 REO Indran Amirthanayagam will participate in HUB meeting in Washington D.C. Oct 4-10, 2010 X Latin American Congress on Botany - La Serena, Chile

HR 2454 May 15, 2009 - Introduced (referred to 15 different committees: http://www.govtrack.us/ congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=committees May 21, 2009 – Reported by committee (2 proposed amendments:

The report from the Mosconi institute argues that the fall in Argentine hydrocarbons reserves is closely linked to the exploration investments of the last three decades. Apparently natural gas production in Argentina has been sustainedly falling since 2004 and in 2009 was equivalent to 48.413 million cubic metres, down 7.3% in the period. "During the 2000 decade, 484 exploration wells were drilled, less than half those averaged during the nineties, and 47% less if we compare the number to the eighties". Similarly oil production in the last ten years accumulates a 16% contraction which means reserves fell at a similar rate in the period having reached 398.213 cubic metres. The Mosconi report forecasts that Argentina's crude reserves will suffice for the next eleven years at the most, and given the limited production capacity it has been forced to greater and progressive imports of natural

The Bolivian official said that 72% of Uruguay's energy matrix could be supplied with Bolivian natural gas, more abundant and cheaper than the current energy costs. "This is in line with the Bolivian government's policy of adding value to our exports, a qualitative leap forward which could be accomplished with the service stations", said Vincneti.

**Historical Cold Snap Freezes South America** 

gas-pipeline

tarina.

taking advantage of the Argentine pipelines' system.

Read more at http://lce.folc.ca/2010/07/21/historical-cold-snap-freezes-south-america/print/

avoid exploitation of one of its largest oil reserves.

think that the Yasuní-ITT initiative is very interesting", he said.

they support it, politically and financially.

US and Ecuador Include in their Agenda an Ambitious Environmental Plan

Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Arturo Valenzuela and Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa extended their bilateral agenda pursuing support for Ecuador intended to

"They said that they are going to analyzed it. They have not clearly stated that they are going to

Valenzuela, who came for the third time to Ecuador this year, talked also with the Ecuadorian authorities about migration, regional security, and a military agreement between Washington and Bogotá. The diplomat talked about their dialog with UNASUR (Union of South American Nations). Read more at http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iD-7MtNZMjdOhSFULHWyT8xdCWwg Guyana: Congo's Minister of Environment here to study Guyana's LCDS Guyana's efforts to draw attention to the value of standing forests in the climate change arena is

drawing attention from peer countries facing similar challenges. The Democratic Republic of the Congo which is home to the Congo Basin has sent a representative of their Government to study Guyana's forest management practices and policies. The Basin is the second largest standing rainforest after the Amazon Basin and the residents and government of that country are dealing with

many of the issues that are facing Guyana as a result of Climate Change and its effects.

He said that the two countries need to work together so that there may be a "kind of justice". Minister Djombo called on Persaud to follow up with a visit of his own to the Congo to discover some of the realities and practices used there. Read more at <a href="http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2010/07/21/congo%E2%80%99s-minister-of-environment-here-to-">http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2010/07/21/congo%E2%80%99s-minister-of-environment-here-to-</a>

> REO Indran Amirthanayagam addressed the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Scientists' Meeting held in Lima the week of August 2. The meeting included scientists from Peru, the US and

> Amirthanayagam spoke on the relationship between science and poetry and used his remarks to underscore the US com-

science degrees.

The Minister went on to speak of those First World nations that are encouraging the countries that are polluting to continue doing so and even giving resources to those who are destroying their forests so that they can stop. "Meanwhile", he said, "they say to those countries who have not destroyed their forests and are managing their resources responsibly, 'It's okay ... you don't

July 7, 2009 – Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97. Track this bill here: http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454 Addressees interested in sharing any ESTH-related events of USG interest are welcome to do so. For questions or comments, please contact us at quevedoa@state.gov.

Oct 11-16, 2010 IV COBER and II ECC International Fair 2010 on Clean Technologies, and Efficient Use of Energy, organized by FONAM -Lima, Peru. Key note addressed by REO Indran Amirthanayagam inscripciones@cober.pe, www.cober.pe **U.S. Climate Change Bills** HR 2996 Rep. Norman Dicks [D-WA6] - Dep. of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 Oct 30, 2009 - Became Public Law No: 111-88. Read about this law here: http:// www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2996 S. 1733 Sen. John Kerry [D-MA] – Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act. Sep 30, 2009 – Introduced (referred to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee) Nov 5, 2009: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Feb 2, 2010: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Track this bill here: <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1733">http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1733</a>

Rep. Henry Waxman [D-CA30] – American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.